

ABSTRACT

An optical head according to the present invention is used for a storage medium having at least two tracks with 5 different reflectances. The optical head includes light receiving means. The light receiving means includes a plurality of light receiving areas, which receive a first type of reflected rays where zero-order and first-order components of the light diffracted by the track are 10 superposed one upon the other to generate a light quantity signal representing the quantity of light of the first type of reflected rays, and a non-light-receiving area, which is provided between the light receiving areas so as not to receive a second type of reflected ray consisting essentially 15 of the zero-order components. As measured in a first direction in which the light receiving areas are arranged, a gap between the light receiving areas is longer than the width of the non-light-receiving area. The optical head further includes tracking error signal generating means for generating 20 a tracking error signal based on the light quantity signal.